

Clearing Forests in Sunderbans for Atomic Power Plant

1417. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to locate an Atomic Power Plant in the Sunderbans in South Paraganas;

(b) whether the Sunderbans has the largest mangrove forests in the world and is also a wildlife reserve, with the highest tiger population;

(c) whether the Supreme Court judgement on a writ petition says that 'no felling of trees would be permitted in any forest, public or private; and

(d) if so, how Government plan to clear forest areas in the Sunderbans for Atomic Power Plant site and why Government are adopting a hush-hush policy on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) No site has been finally selected for setting up of a nuclear power plant in the Sunderbans of South 24 Parganas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that dead-dry fallen trees and even grasses should not be removed from the areas notified under Section 18 and 39 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

(d) No proposal has been received for consideration of the project in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Conserving Wild Life

1418. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of seizures of skins, bones and other parts of wild animals, including tigers and other wild cats, during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year so far by various security outfits or forest department personnel;

(b) whether any gangs of poachers, smugglers and traders working